

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 334

By Pody

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Sam E. "Sammie" Forbes upon the occasion of his posthumous induction into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, agriculture has been a cornerstone of Wilson County since the county's founding in 1799, and those citizens involved in farming have always been a vital part of the community; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly specially recognize those outstanding citizens who dedicated their lives to promoting the importance of agriculture in our society; and

WHEREAS, the late Sam E. "Sammie" Forbes was one such estimable individual; he has been posthumously inducted into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame in recognition of his hard work and commitment to continuing the legacy of the family farm in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the only son of Ebb and Maude (Merinda) Tucker Forbes, Sammie Forbes was born on the family farm in a log cabin that has since been relocated to Fiddler's Grove Historic Village; and

WHEREAS, after attending Shop Springs School through the eighth grade, Mr. Forbes transferred to Watertown High School; a 1950 graduate thereof, he was an active member of FFA and 4-H and proudly played high school football; and

WHEREAS, he began farming early in life; being a farmer was not only Mr. Forbes's occupation but also his way of life and his proudest achievement; and

WHEREAS, he raised a variety of livestock and some tobacco, but his primary focus was produce; Mr. Forbes also worked for his uncles in their food concession and meat businesses before buying the family farm from his parents in the 1960s; and

WHEREAS, in 1953, Sammie Forbes married Edna Gannon, and soon afterward, they purchased a home on Sparta Pike, which proved to be a great decision in retrospect; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Forbes founded a roadside produce stand on the homestead and earned the nickname of "The Tomato Man" from his customers due to his green thumb with garden produce; and

WHEREAS, he gained ownership of his family's food concession business and partial ownership of Tucker's Sausage; renowned as a master salesman and promotor, Mr. Forbes sold his homegrown farm products through these businesses; and

WHEREAS, he owned and operated his roadside farmer's market, now known as Shop Springs Farms, for fifty-two years before relinquishing it to the younger generation in 2015; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Forbes gave back to his community as president of the Lebanon High School Parent-back Club, the coach of several Lion's Club Babe Ruth League baseball teams, and an avid fan and supporter of local athletics, especially Watertown football; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, Sammie and Edna Forbes were honored as Old Timers at the Wilson County Fair and served as its grand marshals; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Forbes was a member of Greenwood's Bethel Church of Christ, which he attended his entire eighty-three years on Earth; and

WHEREAS, the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame honors those dedicated citizens who have committed their lives to developing and maintaining the highest standards and principles in their chosen vocation, and it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly honor the memory of Sam E. "Sammie" Forbes for his lifetime of service to agriculture and the farming community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Sam E. "Sammie" Forbes upon the occasion of his posthumous induction into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame, as we reflect fondly

upon his many contributions to upholding the agricultural traditions of Wilson County and the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.